

SIXPENCE

SEPTEMBER 1945

AMATEUR RADIO

THE
OFFICIAL ORGAN
OF THE
WIRELESS INSTITUTE
OF
AUSTRALIA



Published by the Victorian Division

AMATEUR - RADIO

INCORPORATING THE N.S.W. DIVISIONAL BULLETIN

Vol. 13

SEPTEMBER, 1945.

No. 9.

A MOST USEFUL PIECE OF APPARATUS

By

- Percy G. Peeney, VK2AIX -

One of the most useful articles around the Ham Shack is a set of absorption wavemeters. With this meter one can:-

1. Check the frequency of an oscillating circuit with an accuracy of one percent.
2. The presence of harmonics.
3. The frequency of parasitic oscillations.
4. The neutralisation of an RF Amplifier.
5. The presence of RF in unwanted places...such as power wiring.

When co-operating with VK2HP in the building of the ECN network transmitter for Randwick, the writer had the idea to build a set of wavemeters. This article describes the job which eventuated from that idea and which is offered as a suggestion to fellow Hams to build for themselves.

CONSTRUCTION..The case is made from 3/16" masonite or wood, and measures $5\frac{1}{4}"$ x $5\frac{1}{4}"$ x 4" deep. If masonite is used three-cornered strips of wood are glued inside the case to hold the sides together as nails cannot be used. A brass strip handle is bolted to the left hand side, so that the meter may be held in position and the dial twiddled with the right hand.

A 500 mmfd AWA condenser was taken apart and half the plates removed. This doubles the spacing and makes the total capacity 125 mmfd. Do not forget to measure the length of the condenser with the plates open and then make the INSIDE measurements of the case to suit. A rectangular brass block was shaped on one side to a 2 inch radius to suit the periphery of the 4 inch dial. The block was drilled and tapped from the back, not breaking through, and after filing a slot for reading the dial, was bolted to the front panel.

The condenser and dial on the front and an Amphenol four pin socket, deprived of its mounting plate and glued in a hole drilled in the top of the case next to a flashlight bulb holder are all the parts required.

The coils are wound on 4 pin valve bases which have been fitted with a cover and finger grip.

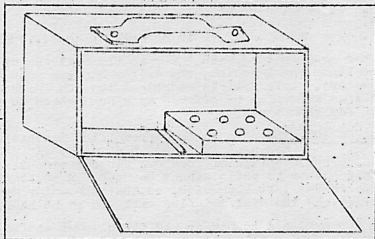
It was thought that the presence of a closed loop, as the brass ring really is, in the field of the coil would be detrimental to its operation, but that has been found to be not the case.

The motor "grid" coil is wired to the filament pins and the flashlight coil to the G and P pins, this making the winding much less troublesome.

Coils were wound for six bands which may seem optimistic but at least I hope that they will all be used. The flashlight was wired

in a separate circuit as by doing this the resonance point is more sharply defined. The coils tune the Ham bands at about half scale but the turns may have to be varied slightly to suit different condensers.

The meter may be calibrated by using the "click" method with a regenerative receiver or the user may do so by checking against a multi-stage transmitter in which case the number of calibration points are only limited by the number of crystals the owner (or his friends) possess.

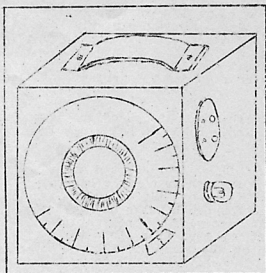


A masonite case 12" long; 6" high and 6" deep was made with a hinged front panel and a carrying handle on the top. A small sub-panel 5 1/2" x 4 1/2" was drilled with six holes 13/16" diameter spaced so that the six coils could be dropped into them. This shelf was mounted one inch above the floor of the case at one end and holds the coils in a tidy manner and where they can always be found at the required time.

The motor case is slipped into the case between two strips of wood which hold it firmly when it is carried bodily, as it surely will be when your friends want to borrow it...I've loaned mine to 2YC already!

This may seem to be a lot of trouble to go to for a lowly absorption wavemeter, but any Ham who builds one will get a lot of

satisfaction from this set, which is complete, does a good job and costs practically nothing to construct, altogether a Most Useful Piece of Apparatus.



COIL DATA

Freq range.	Wire size.	Turns.	Link
1.1-3.5 Mc	28	82	17
2.5-8 Mc	24	35	11
4.5-14 Mc	20	16	6
7.5-25 Mc	16	8	4
15-55 Mc	16	4	2

.....000000.....

The powdered iron cores used for RF inductances are so brittle that they are liable to crack or break, either when being wound or during the final heat treatment, when replacement is costly.

According to the invention, the cores are strengthened by including reinforcing strips of non-magnetic material in the course of manufacture. For instance, the core for a toroidal winding is moulded in two "split" halves, each circular in plan and semicircular in cross section. A ring shaped strip of whalebone fibre, 20 to 40 mils thick, is cemented to the flat face of each half, and the two halves are then cemented together, strip to strip to form the complete reinforced core. This is baked hard to dry out the cement, before being taped and varnished.

From "Wireless World."

.....

Unlacquered brass can be given a beautiful grey finish in the following manner. Mix 1 oz. of tartar-ometic with just enough muriatic acid to dissolve it; add water equal to one third of the mixture. Now apply the solution to the brass and the colour will soon change to a pleasing grey.

"Break-In."

WIRELESS INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA

- Victorian Division -

PRESIDENT's report for the year ended 30th June, 1945, presented at the 35th Annual General Meeting of the Victorian Division.

....

For the fifth successive year it is my pleasant duty to review at this, the 35th Annual General Meeting, the activities of this Division of the Wireless Institute of Australia during the past twelve months.

Finance heads the list of matters for review and as full details are shown in the Balance Sheet, and Income and Expenditure Accounts, a copy of which will be posted to every member, I will deal briefly with only the most outstanding items. The years operations resulted in another loss, which, after providing £27.3.0 for depreciation, amounted to £59.18.1; About £44.0.0 less than the loss incurred last year and somewhat less than the losses of other war years. As I have stated in previous Annual Reports Losses must be expected while the war continues and your Council is of the opinion that it is better to suffer such loss and retain these rooms than to economise by giving them up.

Two items of Laboratory Equipment, namely:- Tinsley's Portable Wheatstone Bridge and GR 1000 cycle Tuning Fork Oscillator were sold during the year for a total of £70.0.0, so the capital value of apparatus is reduced by that amount, and because of support received from three advertisers, operations by the Magazine committee on the publication of "Amateur Radio" resulted in a small profit of £3.9.2d. I regard with satisfaction the fact that we have carried out the year's operations without having to sell any of our holdings of Commonwealth Government Inscribed Stock which remains at £550.0.0.

MEMBERSHIP...Once again figures show an increase, largely due to the efforts of the Membership Secretaries, Messrs. J. C. Marsland VK3NY and T. D. Hogan VK3HX who have continued the drive for new members throughout the year. At the beginning of the year members numbered 208; 70 either joined or rejoined, but 14 failed to renew their subscriptions so the total is now 264, a nett increase of 56. Service members total 135; 7 being either reported as "Missing", or "Prisoners of War." P/O J. E. Snadden VK3VE was one of those, reported in a list issued last year. The only one of whom we have information is "Snow" Campbell VK3MR who was reported repatriated, though it is not known whether or not he has left England...(Snow was present at the meeting at which this report was presented....Ed.

In extending to all new members a hearty welcome and an invitation to participate in all activities of the Institute, I would like to express the gratification felt by those of us who have for so long carried on with the support of a comparative few who saw the wisdom of keeping the Institute alive in this Division, so that when the

time for restoration of licences arrived the organisation necessary to accomplish this and to organise other post war activities would be already in existence. When we compare the present increasing membership with the bare 100 members of a few years ago, we feel that our policy of keeping things going in spite of the discouraging position has been vindicated.

A suggestion by VK3ML that members be issued with a membership card has been adopted by Council at its last meeting and those will be distributed as soon as they come to hand from the printer. Members should make it a habit to carry this card with them wherever they may go, as it will identify them as members when purchasing equipment or borrowing books or instruments from the library, and may also lead to bringing new members in when displayed in front of friends.

MAGAZINE...We are now printing 575 copies each month, some of which are used by the Membership Secretaries to assist the membership drive, and the circulation apart from this is about 500. To print all these copies it is necessary for members of the Magazine Committee to devote two Saturday afternoons each month to this task, which is done at the home of Mr. J. G. Marsland VK3HY. The Institute is indebted to the Magazine Committee for their continued attention to their task; and to Mrs. Marsland for permitting this invasion of her home.

We had hoped before this that the change over to the printed Magazine would have been made, but various difficulties and delays occurred to prevent it. Not the least of these is that of securing enough advertising to enable the printed magazine to be produced without incurring a loss. We are endeavouring to secure the services of an advertising agent, and expect to have this difficulty overcome in time for the October issue. Needless to say, we of the Magazine Committee will have no pangs of regret about being deprived of our task of feeding the duplicator. The new magazine will require much more matter for publication than is possible with the duplicated magazine, and it is here that members can render valuable assistance. Interstate Hams are please asked to note this:---the magazine is the Official Organ of the Wireless Institute of AUSTRALIA, not Victoria or New South Wales or any other Division, and in order that it live up to this statement, it should include articles and other contributions from all States.

POST WAR AMATEUR RADIO...This subject has been claiming more and more of our attention, and in order to fully explore all its aspects, a Committee consisting of Messrs. Marriott, Glyne and Ridgway was appointed early this year. Before they really had time to get under way, Messrs. Marriott and Glyne were appointed to Federal Executive, and the Committee as a purely Victorian body ceased to exist. Doubtless this Committee will be reformed with new members by the incoming Council.

Post War reconstruction may be divided into two classes:- (1) purely Institute matters and (2) Regulations by which Amateur Radio is controlled by the Radio Inspector. It is this latter aspect which has first received our attention, and was the subject of much discussion at the July General Meeting as a result of suggestions from FHR. Generally, the opinion of this largely attended meeting was that with a few modifications the regulations as they existed before the war would be satisfactory. Both classes however, are matters upon which we are anxious to have the opinions of as many Hams as possible, particularly country Hams, and those in the services who are unable to attend meetings to express their opinions.

FEDERAL HEADQUARTERS...In accordance with the decision of the last Federal Convention, which was held in Melbourne at Easter 1939, Federal Headquarters was located in this Division until in August 1941, the offer of the New South Wales Division to relieve us of this responsibility was accepted and the affairs of Federal Headquarters passed into their capable hands. The determination of the location of FHR is normally one of the duties of a Federal Convention, but as New South Wales and Victoria were the only Divisions where Institute activities were sustained at this lean period in our history, it was thus impossible to arrange a convention and the location of FHR was decided by mutual consent between these two Divisions. The chief benefit to us of the transfer of FHR to New South Wales was that we were able to concentrate upon producing the magazine...a job which alone, severely taxed our resources at that time.

However, with the change of the world situation and the approach of peace, it was deemed advisable that FHR be located where close contact with the Chief Radio Inspectors Office could be maintained, so once again this Division is bearing the responsibilities of Federal Headquarters. The various offices were filled by nominations of the following Councillors:- Federal President...Mr. R. J. Marriott VK3SI, Secretary Mr. A. H. Glyne VK3VX, Treasurer Mr. T. D. Hogan VK3HX; Councillors Messrs. C. C. Quin VK3WQ and A. R. Williams VK3WE. In order to devote their energies to their tasks all have refrained from nominating for re-election to the Victorian Council.

LABORATORY AND LIBRARY... Following its recommendations that the obsolete laboratory equipment (i.e. GR Capacity Bridge, GR Precision Condenser, GR 1000 cycle Tuning Fork Oscillator, Tinsley Portable Wheatstone Bridge) be sold and the proceeds used for the purchase of modern laboratory equipment when it became available, the Laboratory Committee set about disposing of this apparatus, and the motor generator set. Firstly a circular was sent to The University, The Melbourne Technical College, The PMG Laboratory and the CSIR and this eventually resulted in the sale of the Tuning Fork Oscillator to the University.

Transformer Problems

ARE AS SIMPLE AS...



- Air cooled power transformers up to 2KVA.
- Small size current transformers for rectifier instruments.
- Audio and carrier frequency transformers on silicon steel or nickel alloy cores.
- 11, 16 and 31 point switches.
- Custom built sheet metal.

ABAC TRANSFORMERS

—a product of TRIMAX TRANSFORMERS

DIVISION OF CLIFF & BUNTING PTY. LTD.
29-35 Flemington Road, North Melbourne

Chas Quin 3WQ was then largely responsible for publicising our intention to sell this equipment amongst various commercial organisations who may have been interested, and eventually the Wheatstone Bridge was sold to Messrs. Hodson & Gault of Springvale.

The complete diary of Mr. Quin's efforts to dispose of the equipment would make interesting reading, and would be too lengthy to include in this report, but some idea of the amount of work he has put into this task is shown by the fact that he has contacted some 30 firms and has spent much time during his lunch hour (and after too) showing it to prospective buyers. In short his efforts have been worthy of a greater measure of success than has been achieved. At present an answer is awaited from the Rola Co. concerning purchase of the Capacity Bridge and Precision Condenser.

The library has also received attention from the Laboratory Committee who have submitted to Council two reports concerning it and its re-habilitation. Practically all books in the Library were obsolete having been published about 1928; the last two books added not long before the fateful red telegram day were nowhere to be found and no clue could be found to indicate their present whereabouts. In its report to Council, the Committee recommended that, in order to modernise the library, new text books should be

purchased, subscriptions made to several overseas periodicals, and that it should be kept up to date by the regular addition of new books as they became available. It suggested that by the sale of Admiralty Handbooks and the Motor Generator Set sufficient funds could be made available to initiate such a plan. Council has noted these recommendations and with the £10 realised by the sale of these handbooks, six modern text-books have been purchased and subscriptions made to "The Wireless Engineer" and "Communications."

These books will be available for loan to members when all arrangements for their safety are completed. Within the last few weeks a further success in our efforts to sell unwanted equipment has been achieved by the sale of the Motor Generator Set to D. F. Skelley for £35. This will ensure finance for the completion of the initial stages of the re-habilitation of the library.

Another task undertaken by the Laboratory Committee is that of indexing technical articles in periodicals in the library, by means of an index system. This is being done by Mr. J. K. Ridgway and when completed, ready reference to all articles on a given subject will be available, and this should prove of immense value in many directions. Our efforts to secure copies of periodicals found to be missing from the library have been partially successful... VK3EN: VK3ON and VK3BM generously gave many copies, but more are required to complete the files in accordance with the committee's recommendations that, if possible, all copies of the following periodicals from 1938 should be kept in the library for future reference... "QST: Radio: Wireless World and RSGB Bulletin."

The Laboratory Committee has many important tasks ahead of it...the supply of technical articles for the magazine, the arrangement of a series of discussions on modern technical developments for general meetings; the planning and building of the post war laboratory are but a few. An enlarged committee is essential if these plans are to be realised and any members willing and able to assist will be welcomed by the present committee.

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS...At this time last year we were awaiting replies from officials of the Bush Fire Brigades Association to our letters regarding the establishment of an emergency network. We are still awaiting them, but without any cares as to whether or not we receive them. In the meanwhile the Forrests Commission sought our assistance to enlarge their communications networks in several country districts. Unfortunately there are no hams in some districts where communications are desired, so that we are unable to assist to the extent we could have wished. However, a start was made early this year when VL3DY and VL3DZ, base transmitter and mobile station respectively, were licensed for operation in the Heywood district. Hams participating are VK1s 3 TW and 3TW of Hamilton. We are hopeful that stations in at least one other district will be licensed shortly. Nothing further has been heard from either the State Electricity Commission or VK3MD

about his suggestion that an emergency network of Hams could assist in reducing the time when power was cut off from country towns due to lines being broken by bush fires or other causes.

The Ski Club of Victoria is establishing an emergency communication network in the Mt. Hotham and Mt. Bogang areas, the chief value of which is to obtain assistance or medical advice when a skier may be injured and to check up on the safety of parties venturing out or being caught out in doubtful weather. The Club intends to secure equipment of its own--at present they are using sets obtained on loan from the Forrests Commission---and is seeking our assistance in overcoming some of the difficulties encountered in their setup; particularly in the design of an effective aerial system. Members of the Laboratory Committee have conferred with the Secretary of the Ski Club, Mr. Bennett, but so far discussions have been of a preliminary nature and will be resumed when he returns from his present sojourn in the Alps.

...00...

THE TECHNICAL LIBRARY

The RADIO AMATEURS HANDBOOK...22nd Edn., 1945 (ARRL)...512 Pages,
plus index and 200 p. catalogue section,
...11/6.

The new 1945 Handbook is a comprehensive digest of the older, familiar phases of radio theory and practice with which has been combined material covering the more advanced techniques of the future. While the basic treatment of the theory section has not been materially changed, many of the latest phases of radio such as pulse technique, panoramic reception velocity modulation etc. have been covered in completely new additions to the text, thus paving the way for the post war amateur development with its new techniques as well as those which have become orthodox practices of amateur radio operation.

Treatises on amateur radio and radio operating are included in the general information section which also contains an enlarged collection of formulas, miscellaneous data tables and the classified vacuum tube tables which have been revised to include data on all the released new types. This compilation is most comprehensive, including as it does magnetrons, klystrons and other special tubes in addition to all the better known American types. A cross index is provided to further assist in the use of the tube data. Some idea of the completeness of the tube data may be gained from the fact that it occupies 45 pages!

By no means the least interesting section of the Handbook is the usual catalog section at the back. As in previous years no doubt this section will cause much tearing of hair by VK Hams. There is so much new material included in the 1945 edition of the Handbook that I can recommend it even to those who have the previous edition.

We are indebted to the publishers the American Radio Relay League for the copy reviewed above. .. Alec H. Glynn - Review Editor.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor - Dear Sir,

I read with much interest SML's article on Post War Amateur Radio appearing in the August issue of "Amateur Radio" and I agree with quite a deal of what he has to say, but I am afraid that he is laboring under a misapprehension regarding the Federal Constitution.

At the Fifteen Annual Federal Convention held in Melbourne during Easter of 1939 the Constitution was re-drafted and in its new and modified form, unanimously agreed to by the delegates present. This Constitution lays down the organisation of the Institute stating that it shall consist of Divisions, a Federal Executive - and a Federal Council and certain very definite powers are given the Executive including a mandate from all Divisions to execute or handle all matters of a Federal nature. The Federal Council to consist of one member from each Division together with the Federal President, Federal Vice President and Federal Secretary. The Council would be the governing body and as the name implies, the Executive would carry out its decisions.

A Convention was held once a year and Councillors met and laid down the policy of the Institute for the ensuing year. This did not mean, of course, that if any matter cropped up during the year that it would be impossible or perhaps difficult for any action to be taken. That is of course ridiculous, and as the various Divisions are aware, they have been consulted by letter from time to time.

It is fully realised that at the present time the only really active Divisions are those in N.S.W. and Victoria, whilst a skeleton organisation has been maintained in VK6. In VK4, 5 & 7 the Institute is dormant. This state of affairs has been brought about by the demands of Wars, but it is quite safe to say that if encouragement had been received from the right quarter these latter three Divisions would, like VK6, maintain some form of organisation. Nevertheless there are still stalwarts like Arthur Walz VK4AW, Joe Kilgariff VK6JT and Peter Allan VPA interested in the affairs of their States, and will be well to the fore in any re-organisation schemes.

SML suggests that in order to impress upon the Chief Radio Inspector that the Institute is representative of the Australian Amateur, that the old organisation be done away with. Does the C.R.I. doubt the Institute as being representative? That is the only interpretation that can be placed on paragraph 6 of his article? Does he seriously suggest that in the light of section (1) Courses of Action that the valued advice of the active Divisions or representatives - already mentioned - of others not so active should be lightly dispensed with? This particularly refers to New South Wales, a Division of which I am proud to be Chairman. A Division which has been responsible for keeping Amateur Radio alive in Australia during the war years by reason of the fact that it was able to obtain permission for a wartime Emergency Communication Network. Although unfortunately confined to VK2, this Network provided a stimulus to Experimental Radio throughout the Commonwealth.

If it is thought necessary to again re-draft the Federal Constitution, why not wait until such time as a representative number

of Australian Amateurs on Service have returned to civilian life and give them an opportunity of forming the Constitution instead of presenting them with a fait accompli. Of course 3ML suggests that a tentative Constitution be drawn up to operate for two years. The writer can see no reason for this.

It is realised that with the cessation of hostilities, Federal Headquarters will have to consult with the Department on many occasions and possibly would like to say yes or no without consulting any Division or representative thereof. This policy on the face, has many advantages, but by the same token is dangerous and has its limits.

Recently, Federal Headquarters circulated a number of proposals to the various Divisions or representatives thereof. Numbered among these proposals was a suggestion that there be three types of Licences, namely C.B.A. The suggestion for qualifications and privileges of the Class "C" were as follows - Age 18 years - an increase of three years over pre-war standards. Code speed 14 w.p.m. (increase of two words p.m.) 12 months operation on c.w. with a power input of the whole of 15 watts! If this proposal had been submitted to the Department as part of the Post War plan, it is quite safe to say that the Institute would have had to close down. When one considers the hard fight that was necessary to have the limit raised from 25 watts to 50 watts in pre-war days, it is hard to follow F.H.Q.'s reasoning. It is almost impossible to believe that the Institute was making it harder to obtain the A.O.C.P.

As a result of circularising the Divisions and representatives, I have been informed by a member of the N.S.W. Council who recently visited Melbourne, that the view expressed by N.S.W. - that the Class "C" Licence should be similar to the pre-war A.O.C.P. - has been endorsed by the other States. This demonstrates in no uncertain manner the value of obtaining the advice of the people concerned, namely, the Australian Amateur represented by his Division of the Institute or some responsible pre-war official, and definitely proves that it would be dangerous to delegate to a small body - however good their intentions may be - the sole right to plan Post War Amateur in Australia.

I agreed with 3ML that if the Institute is to progress, it must have a permanent staff with at least a full time secretary, who would be governed by the Federal Council consisting of a representative from each Division.

As far as the magazine is concerned, it must become definitely Australian in character, and here again, if it is to become a source of revenue and not a burden, as it has been on the Victorian Division, it must cease to be a voluntary effort on the part of a small band of willing helpers as the magazine Committee have proved themselves to be over the past years.

Mr. Editor, I trust that I have not taken up too much of your valuable space in my endeavors to show that the Federal Constitution is workable and the value of obtaining advice on Post War plans, and, in conclusion, would like to state that if F.H.Q. consults a State, it is up to that body to forward a prompt reply.

Yours faithfully,
WAL RYAN - VK2TI.

- DIVISIONAL NOTES -

.. Federal Headquarters ..

In the past few weeks Federal Executive have received numerous inquiries as to when the ban on Amateur Transmissions will be lifted, a thought which must exercise every Ham's mind.

Unfortunately it will not be next week or indeed next month or the month after. We, Federal Executive can say with considerable authority that it will be some time before Australian Amateurs will be allowed back on the air. Although the war is finished, service communications will have to be continued for some time.

Many countries now in the possession of Japan will have to be re-occupied, with the result of a further strain on the already crowded frequency allotments, which means that the Amateur bands will have to remain in use by the various services.

However we are assured that as soon as there is a possible change for the return of Amateur Frequencies, machinery will be set in motion which will restore Amateur Licences, so until that time, we Federal Executive, ask all Hams to wait patiently.

Federal Executive have spent much time in recent weeks in the collation of the replies from Divisions, on the Draft Proposals in regard to Post War Licencing. The task has not been exactly an easy one, for on some points there was widely diversified opinion. However on the major points almost unanimous assent was received.

In the course of the next few weeks, the revised Draft will be forwarded to all Divisions for further discussion and if necessary amendment. Federal Executive wish to point out that the revised Draft consists of a majority vote by Divisions on the various points. If any one Division does not agree with any particular point, that Division must remember that a majority of other Divisions desire that particular point included. However the Draft is not final yet, and further suggestions or amendments are in order.

Federal Executive are delighted to report that South Australia, Queensland and Tasmania are once again active Divisions and we recommend that Hams in the services join or re-join their Divisions. By doing this they will help their Division get under weigh again, as well as strengthening the hand of Federal Executive, who may then say that they represent an Australian wide organisation. In next months Amateur Radio we will list the addresses of the Secretary of these Divisions.

...oOo...

SLOUCH HATS AND FORAGE CAPS

1st Peace Edition H1

...

And so it looks as if very soon your column can, like the War, cease to be, for soon you will all be free of wearing the above-mentioned caps, stripes, gold braid and what-have-you, and be once more merely VK0ZZ calling CQ DX...did I hear an echo "20 metre phone" H1! However, till its all over, over there, and you all get home YOUR column has to function, and with plenty of time on your hands and no more censorship, I expect to expand to four pages till we go out of production.

At the moment, Chief Petty Officer O'Dwyer seems to be the farthest away. This SOF seems to be able to judge things in an unsunny way...just manages to arrive in England to join in the VJ Peace Celebrations...not to mention the elections. AND, like a lot more of you, writes me two whole pages with nary a morsel of news for our column in either of them. He is not another VK to be met and given a very friendly welcome by Clarry G6CL of the RCGB. Like all VK Divisions, Clarry has one "moan" throughout this War, and it was and is... "We don't more visiting Hams get in touch with the Ham Society of the country they are visiting." The answer is a Great BIG Question Mark.

Les Coupland 2BQC Sgt. in the RAF (stationed at Camdon) was a bit of an exception as he got in touch with 2TI and was at our WIA Divisional meeting. Les was one of the "Early Birds" who went to France in '39. As he sports a Pacific Star he must have been out here for longer than represented by his arrival in VK2. He was in Belgium before the Germans turned it in and the ON's held a Ham fest in Ghent on 7/10/44. He remembers the following as being present:- ON4KB, 4KX, 4HK, 4PEM, 4CK, 4PA. During the occupation these Hams had built a Xmitter for underground use. EVERYTHING but the tubes themselves had been "Hammade." As soon as the Allies came in this Xmitter has presented to the Allied Government.

Had a "Post War" letter from Wing Commander Meyers VK2VN. Morrie saw the war out from the front line so to speak, quite by accident, as he should have been down here on leave, but his relief took sick and stayed in VIB...and now it "kind of doesn't matter". When he wrote 2VN was in Labuan after five weeks at Balikpapan. "As usual" Morrie said, "arrived there the day the landing was made and went through the usual hardships of installation etc." On his staff are Sci Westee, Roger Choate 6RK, and John Allan 5UL, so, as he says, all spare time goes into discussions of "I think I'll build," etc. etc. Morrie himself has gone into serious study of all QST's he can get hold of since the War ended...and I guess he looked around and about. H1! Recent arrivals up there are MacNaughton 2ZH, very proud of some very new and very late equipment, the first of its kind, while on Peace Day along pops Johnny Trill, 2XQ, and so they had a celebration, as Morrie says "of a kind." And if he remains there any further time, Morrie is going to have Hamfest...and

quite right too. Hi! Thanks Morrie, would they all wrote as often as you). Clarry Castles SKL, Sargeant to you, and now QRA RDUAU, 87 Exhibition St., Melbourne, writes to be remembered to all the VK2 Gang. Clarry is another who always supported the column from way out in the Never Never, and its good to know he is back in "civilisation" Hi! He says the VK5's had a meeting of over 40 Hams recently, and with VK3 with over 60 and VK2 over 50...it looks as though the boys are just becoming a bit Ham Band Conscious. Hi!

From Ex Fl/Lt Evans one 3VQ come a long letter of some of his travels, which are better told in his own way. "Came out of the RAAF last February, after 5½ years service. Whilst in New Guinea I saw most of the spots up there starting with Kiriwina, Goodenough, Milne Bay, Moresby, Nadzab and Biak. Saw a lot of Gavin Douglas 3YK in '43 and early '44 while at Goodenough and Moresby. and lastly about a month ago had lunch with him before his departure for Morotai. (Incidentally I noticed in the paper where a G.C. Douglas welcomed the Cook while he was touring up North...was it 3YK??? 2YQ) Mol McCartney 3KV is in England with RAAF Photography Section and does not anticipate being home before Xmas. He has been all over England and Scotland on visits to RAAF units there during his stay, but reckons the climate is too cold for him.

Saw Oscar Blythe 3XW quite a few times at Moresby and Finschaff-en late in '44, Morrie Meyers at Nadzab and Noemfoor, and Arthur Walz (44W) Jack Bell, and Jack Evans (2CX) when they were doing installation work from Milne Bay and Nadzab."

Apart from his own travels 3VQ has this other news, "I believe news has been coming fairly regularly from Arthur Tinkler 3ZV and Roy Prowse 3XS POW's at Singapore. The last message was from the Singapore Radio early this year, so we can hope to see them both very soon now. 3VQ's younger brother is now second Radio Officer on M/V Troja the first officer of which is L47H." Thanks 3VQ...and once again it shows what news there is waiting for this column.

Sgt VK2AGA just arrived down South from New Guinea and Nth C. has promised me his story and travels for our next issue as has also Jeff Prior 2 AMP just back from Boganville. While over there he worked with a sigs group comprising 2Ls Ws and VK's. So I am at least assured of a few notes, thank goodness.

F/O Cec Light is now back in Sydney after his trip over to Europe. Cec seems to have been round quite a bit. He flew several types of bombers including Stirlings, Halifaxes, and Lancasters. On D Day he dropped Paratroops over Caen and generally helped things by towing gliders and dropping bombs where needed. Anyway, that's how he dismissed a couple of years excitement, so I guess I will have to invite him out to tea. Hi!

And that concludes "Peace Edition No. 1"...no 2 follows next month provided letters arrive at 78 Maloney Street, Eastlakes, NSW and the 'phones at MU1092 and MU1679 keep ringing.

P.S. I have a packet for Jim Stevens when I get his QRA...2YC.

- NEW SOUTH WALES DIVISION -

The Victory General Meeting of the New South Wales Division of the Institute was held at Science House on Thursday 23rd August, and as could be expected, the Meeting was the largest since pre-war days.

The Chairman in declaring the Meeting open, stated that this meeting was unique insofar as it was being held on a night other than the "Third Thursday," but he felt that Members would forgive Council for this lapse as the reasons were quite good! It was fitting that at this meeting we should have a representative of the "Fov that we owe so much to" namely Sergeant Les Couplant AA-2BCG of the RAF, Flying Officer "Lanc" Light VK2QM was also welcomed back home after three years service with the R.A.A.F.

Among the large gathering was noticed VK2ADV, 2AMP, 2IR, 2ND, 2DI, 2ADK, 2UN, 2NO, 2AKU, 2AGO, 2AJW, 2HP, 2QM, 2RA, 2NP, 2JH, 2EE, 2ATR, 2AGL, 2AFQ, 2LO, 2TI, 2AZ, 2OM, 2JOC, Messrs. Byres Borlan, Hopkins, Murphy, Gard, Knock Jnr. and Ryan Jnr.

Members generally expressed keen disappointment that the draft proposals had not been received from Federal Headquarters, but it was pointed out that several telegrams had been forwarded to F.H.Q. on this matter, but unfortunately the Federal Secretary was absent in the country. A brief note from a member of the Executive stated that the Chief Radio Inspector, in reply to a request for a statement as to the position of the Experimenter had stated that there were no immediate prospects of getting back on the air, as due to the large number of Islands that had to be garrisoned, frequencies would be at a premium. The news that F.H.Q. intended seeking the release of sealed containers was received with delight.

In view of the cessation of hostilities and the increasing attendances at General Meetings it is proposed to make efforts to obtain the Main Hall at Science House for 1946. This may prove difficult as this Hall is much sought after, but no effort will be spared, and at this juncture it can be stated that if this Hall is available, meetings will NOT be held on the third Thursday. Members will be kept informed regarding negotiations, but please keep this in mind. You will receive ample notice of any change in Meeting night.

At the conclusion of General Business a very interesting talk and demonstration was given by Mr. Foster Stubbs of the Australian Amateur Cine Society. Mr. Stubbs briefly outlined the progress made with technicolor amateur cinematography. Members were astounded with the films shown - all of which had won prizes, and it was hard to believe that they were the work of amateurs and the enthusiastic manner in which each film was received would leave no doubts in the minds of the lecturer of the popularity of his demonstration. We would like to have you again sometime, Foster. Many thanks.

The next Meeting of the Division will be held at Science House on Thursday 20th September, and it is hoped that by then Draft Proposals will be on hand from F.H.Q.

VICTORIAN DIVISION

The Annual General Meeting of the Division was held on Tuesday August 14th, and, once again, the accommodation of the rooms was severely taxed, some 65 members and visitors being present. Interstate visitors were 4LD, 5FE, 6AF and 7LM, and we were especially pleased to welcome back to our ranks "Snow" Campbell 3MK, recently repatriated from P.O.W. camps in Europe. Others present were 3XC, IK, QS, MW, MZ, PJ, HK, YQ, LI, LX, UE, IG, OC, EC, UR, KN, BC, ML, XD, VG, FR, DS, JA, XB, UC, QZ, JE, SZ, HW, PG, RJ, LF, XL, XJ, NY, EX, WY, LH, WQ, NK, XL, JX, Messrs. Viney, Ridgway, Couch, Roberts, Belcher, Lonsdale, Mansergh, House, Nielsen, Ferrier, Kerley, Burdakin.

First item of business was the President's report on the year's activities, and in the unavoidable absence of the retiring President, Mr. H. Stevens 3JO, the report was read by Vice President Mr. T. D. Hogan 3HX. The report is printed in full elsewhere in the magazine. The Balance sheet was then presented by the Treasurer, Mr. J.G. Marsland 3NY, after which the meeting proceeded to the election of officers for the present year. Messrs. Kinnear 3KN and Cunningham 3ML were nominated for President, and in the ensuing ballot, Mr. Kinnear was elected. The following Vice-Presidents were then appointed - Messrs. R. H. Cunningham 3ML, R. Dowling 3XD, M. Howden 3BC and T. D. Hogan 3HX. Messrs. Gandy, Cohen and Hiscock were re-appointed Auditors.

Only eight nominations were received for Council, those nominated being automatically elected, the new Council being Messrs. R.E. Jones 3HJ, R. Dowling 3XD, I. Morgan 3DH, H. N. Stevens 3JO, R. McGregor 3XZ, K. Ridgway, H. Burdakin and E.D. Hanson.

Some members questioned the value of technical equipment as shown by the Balance Sheet, and a motion was passed that a re-valuation of technical equipment be carried out by the Laboratory Committee. The possibility of holding a Federal Convention in Melbourne at an early date was discussed, some members being of the opinion that it would be possible to obtain a delegate for each Division from Service personnel and civilians at present located in this State, and a motion was passed that F.H.Q. be requested to communicate with the other Divisions with a view to arranging such a Convention. Another motion embodied a request to F.H.Q. to approach the PMG's Department with a view to re-opening the 5 metre band. A lengthy discussion took place on a letter from F.H.Q. regarding the transfer of certain powers to the Federal Executive, and whilst many were of the opinion that the Executive already possessed sufficient powers under the 1939 Constitution, a motion was passed to the effect that F.H.Q. be given power to carry out any negotiations with the P.M.G.'s Department.

At the first meeting of the new Council on Aug. 14th, Mr. H. Kinnear 3KN was elected Chairman of Council & Messrs. R. Anderson 3WY & J.G. Marsland 3NY were re-appointed Sec. & Treas. respectively. Messrs. Stevens 3JO & K. Ridgway were appointed to the Labor. Committee with power to co-opt. Considerable discussion took place on the subject of Fed. Executive's powers & the Sec. was instructed to pass on the recommendation from the General Meeting. A motion was also passed that F.H. approach the P.M.G.'s Dept., with a view to obtaining the release of gear in the custody of the Department.

THE WIRELESS INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA



Divisions of the Wireless Institute of Australia exist in every State of the Commonwealth. The activities of these Divisions are co-ordinated by Federal Headquarters Division, the location of which is determined from time to time by ballot.

Present location of F.H.Q. :— New South Wales

Federal President : F. P. DICKSON, VK2AFB.

Vice-President : H. F. PETERSON, VK2HP. **Federal Secretary :** W. G. RYAN, VK2TI.

Councillors : C. FRYAR, VK2NP ; W. J. McELREA, VK2UV

Official Organ : "AMATEUR RADIO"—Published by the Victorian Division.

VICTORIAN DIVISION

191 QUEEN ST., MELBOURNE

Postal Address : Box 2611W, G.P.O.

President : H. N. STEVENS, VK3JO

Secretary : R. A. C. ANDERSON, VK3WY

Treasurer : J. G. MARSLAND, VK3NY

Councillors : I. MORGAN, VK3DH; T. D. HOGAN, VK3HX; R. J. MARRIOTT, VK3SI; C. QUIN, VK3WQ; A. H. CLYNE, VK3VX; H. BURDEKIN; K. RIDGWAY.

Subscription Rates

Metropolitan	£1 per annum
Country	14/6 per annum
Defence Forces	7/6 per annum

Subscription includes "AMATEUR RADIO"

Meeting Night

First Tuesday in each month at W.I.A. Rooms,
191 Queen Street.

Visiting Overseas and Interstate Amateurs are welcome at meetings and they are invited to communicate with the Membership Secretaries :

T. D. HOGAN . . VK3HX - UM1732

J. G. MARSLAND VK3NY - WF3958

NEW SOUTH WALES DIVISION

Registered Office :

21 TUNSTALL AV., KINGSFORD

Telephone : FX3305

Postal Address : Box 1734JJ, G.P.O., Sydney

Meeting Place

Y.M.C.A. BUILDINGS, PITT ST., SYDNEY

President : R. A. PRIDDLE, VK2RA

Vice-Presidents : H. F. PETERSON, VK2HP ;
E. HODGKINS, VK2EH.

Secretary : W. G. RYAN, VK2TI

Treasurer : W. J. McELREA, VK2UV.

Councillors : N. GOUGH, VK2NG; E. TREHARNE,
VK2AFQ; P. DICKSON, VK2AFB; C. FRYAR, VK2NP;
R. MILLER

Subscription Rates

Full Members	10/6 per annum
Service Members	7/6 per annum

The N.S.W. Division meets on the third Thursday of each month at Y.M.C.A. Buildings, Pitt St., Sydney and on invitation is accorded to all Amateurs to attend. Overseas and Interstate Amateurs who are unable to attend are asked to phone the Secretary at FX3305.

WESTERN AUST. DIVISION

C.M.L. Buildings,

ST. GEORGE'S TERRACE, PERTH

Postal Address : BOX N1002, G.P.O. PERTH.

Secretary : C. QUIN, VK6CX.

QUEENSLAND DIVISION

Box 1524V, BRISBANE

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

Box 284D, ADELAIDE

TASMANIAN DIVISION

BOX 547E, HOBART